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caryæ we have found ovipositing the last week in the month on the leaves of the butternut. The Squash-bug, *Coreus* (Gonocerus) *tristis*, is now very abundant, gathering about the roots of the Squash vines, often in immense numbers, blackening the stems with their dark, blackish-brown bodies. This insect is easily distinguished from the yellow striped Squash-beetle mentioned in our last number, by its much greater size, and its entirely different structure and habits. It is a true bug (*Hemipter*, of which the bed-bug is an example), piercing the leaves and stalks, and drawing out the sap with its long sucker.

A. S. P.

PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

ESSEX INSTITUTE. *Salem, Feb.* 18, 1867.—Mr. N. E. Atwood, of Provincetown, presented some observations on the different species of whales, and alluded to their food. The Sperm Whale feeds principally upon the Squid, or Cuttle-fish. The favorite food of the Right Whale consists of small crustaceans, medusæ, etc. The Finbacks feed on menhaden, and other small fishes. He then spoke of the relative size of the sexes. The males of the Sperm Whale have yielded as largely as one hundred and forty barrels of oil, whereas the females only yielded from fifteen to twenty barrels. Among the Humpbacks, the females exceed the males in size.

Mr. E. Bicknell made a few remarks upon the microscopic structure of whalebone, stating that, in his opinion, in addition to serving as a strainer to catch the food of the whale, the fringe of hairs, with which each blade is furnished on its inner edge, serves as an organ of touch, notifying it of the presence of its food. This theory is based upon the fact of the hairs being but the termination of a series of tubes, which are continuous from their base to their termination in free ends, and which are filled with a vascular pulp, which he had no doubt contained a nervous substance. The examination of pieces of fresh whalebone would be sufficient to decide the question.

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES. *Philadelphia, March* 12.—Prof. E. D. Cope exhibited a specimen of the skull of a large turtle in a matrix of soft granular limestone, from the cretaceous marl at Barnesboro, Camden County, New Jersey. It was of great interest, not only from the rarity of fossil Chelonian crania in our collections, but from its peculiar structural features. Prof. Ennis remarked on the "Physical Condition and Habits of the Gipsies."